Wawokiya Peer Mentoring Program

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“Wawokiya” is a Lakota term meaning “one who helps.”
Our program provides support to first year and new transfer students who are of minority groups such as Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, as well as first generation college students (neither parent graduated from college). Students who wish to participate should either be enrolled, or interested in enrolling in, a science major at USD.

Peer Mentors contact their mentees (the student being mentored) each week to assist them in getting acquainted with campus. The mentor helps the mentee interact with faculty and staff so they can get familiarized with the community and make meaningful relationships. As an ISI mentor it is important for the mentee to be successful so they assist them in finding helpful resources and tutor when necessary. ISI also offers several group activities, which include an academic, cultural, and social component. The activities vary from guest lectures to group activities such as bowling or movies.

Peer Mentors receive a $500 incentive per semester.

The Mentees are responsible for simple academic activities designed to help them become acclimated to campus and utilizing the university resources. As a main resource, the ISI Wawokiya Coordinator is available to the students for advising and assistance.

If you are interested in joining us as either a mentor or mentee, please contact us at InclusiveScience@usd.edu

The Wawokiya mentoring program, a long established Native American student support program. The programs basic principals were utilized to continue the initiative of helping peers. In this instance, peers in sciences.